

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 15-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of TODD in Microsoft Exchange Server 5.5 Unleashed, 1998.

The instant invention relates to a method of transmitting, displaying, and interacting insurance related tasks with a user. The invention essentially consists of software tools designed to allow a user to change or update a list of tasks, and after the change is made, the data may be reorganized and a new list of tasks to be performed may be outputted and stored. A further feature of the present invention is that an historical record of all tasks completed is generated and stored. The invention may be used for example in any business related environment where multiple users may request, change, or interact with a list of tasks required to process an insurance claim.

In the rejection of these claims the Examiner cites a Microsoft Exchange Server Manual from 1998. This manual very broadly set forth common features found in client/server networks. Regarding the claim language, the Examiner points to numerous pages throughout this manual. In the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner asserts that the claimed "data component", "client component", "adapter component" "business component" and "controller component" may be found on pages 8-11, 43, 357, 52, 48, 473-474, and 50 respectively. With respect to the data component, there is no teaching in the Exchange Server Manual of the data component "manipulating data utilizing a plurality of functions" as claimed. The cited pages for this feature mention a data structure that the Examiner interprets as a "data component" but the function of manipulating data utilizing a plurality of functions is not found. With respect to the claimed client component, the Examiner cites page 357 of the Microsoft manual. There is no description on this page of any type of data structure (client component) that provides the feature of receiving tasks, and editing tasks as found in claim 1. Page 357 merely has the word **task** in bold, but there is no more disclosure concerning this feature. With respect to the claimed business component, "serving as a data cache and includes logic for manipulating the data", there is certainly no teaching of this on page 43 of the Microsoft Exchange Server Manual. This page teaches simple storage techniques and does not approach the claim language which requires that the

business component itself acts as a data cache. Finally, the Examiner states in the rejection of claim 1, that “The addition, editing, and archiving of tasks is an inherent function of the Outlook 97 client”. Again referring to page 357, there is absolutely no mention of what a task is much less how a list of tasks can be added to, edited nor archived. Claims 1 and 15 specifically call for a client component wherein the client component is adapted for receiving a plurality of tasks that achieve a goal upon completion, allowing users to add new tasks that achieve the goal upon completion, allowing the users to edit the tasks, and generating a historical record of the tasks that are completed. Further, independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to specifically recite that the computer program is used with “insurance claim projects”. There is no teaching in the Microsoft Exchange Server manual of any insurance related tasks nor how the recited components interactively work as claimed to process an insurance claim. Applicant’s now assert that claims 1 and 15 define over the Microsoft Exchange Server manual and the 102 (b) rejection be removed.

Claims 8-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) in view of TODD in Microsoft Exchange Server 5.5 Unleashed, 1998.

Independent claim 8 contains the same features as claims 1 and 15 and in addition, the controller component as recited contains a “dirty flag processing”. Applicant’s assert that the same problems with the rejection of claims 1 and 15 apply to claim 8. The Examiner cites the same passages in the Microsoft Exchange Server manual to show the claimed “data component”, “client component”, “adapter component” “business component” and “controller component”. Again, the pages relied on do not contain the specific levels of detail found in claim 8. At best, one must assume that the alleged “components” exist as components. Further there is no teaching as to how these components work together to accomplish the processing of an insurance claim as recited. Claim 8 has also been amended to include the feature that the invention is used to process insurance claims. Therefore it is requested that the section 103 rejection in view of the Microsoft Exchange Server manual be withdrawn.

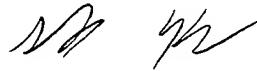
With respect to the dependent claims, 2-7, 9-14 and 16-21, the Examiner points to various pages in the Microsoft Exchange Server manual. Claims 2, 9, and 16 recite “wherein the tasks are generated based on characteristics of a scenario and a set of rules”. The Examiner relies on pages 909-913 of the manual to show this feature. Page 912 recites “When a user opens a **task** message, your originators and recipients can use these attachments while processing the flow”. There is no further description of generating tasks based on characteristics of a scenario and a set of rules as claimed. Claims 5-6 recite “automating work necessary to complete tasks” and further that a “portion of the work automated is writing correspondence”. The Examiner states that “ Outlook 97 is inherently a computerized electronic machine for managing tasks” with respect to claim 5. With respect to claim 6 the Examiner states “Email is writing correspondence and that writing of correspondence is automated”. It is asserted that an email system does not manage tasks, and that responding to an email is not an “automated” process. Further, in light of the amendments to the independent claims which recite that the tasks are insurance related and used to process an insurance claim, the dependent claims which recite tasks certainly define over any teachings in the Microsoft Exchange Server manual which does not approach any insurance related goals. It is Applicant’s position that the features of claims 2, 5-6, 9, 12-13,16, and 18-19 are clearly not taught, suggested nor rendered obvious by the Microsoft Exchange Server manual. It is submitted that the rejection of the dependent claims be removed.

In summary, the Microsoft Exchange Server 5.5 Unleashed reference may be interpreted to show the broad concepts of having data components, business components, and controller components, however the functional limitations relating to how the different components interact and are used to process insurance claims are not present. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 - 21 define over the Microsoft Exchange Server Manual, and the rejections be removed.

In light of the above remarks and claim amendments, Applicant's believe that the invention as claimed is allowable over the cited prior art and request that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number below to further discuss the Application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be due to our Deposit Account No. 02-3964 (Order No. 60021-306701). A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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Marked up copy of amended claims

1. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for developing component based software capable of handling insurance claim processing tasks, comprising:

a data component that stores, retrieves and manipulates data utilizing a plurality of functions; and

a client component including:

an adapter component that transmits and receives data to/from the data component,

a business component that serves as a data cache and includes logic for manipulating the data, and

a controller component adapted to handle events generated by a user utilizing the business component to cache data and the adapter component to ultimately persist data to a data repository,

wherein the client component is adapted for receiving a plurality of tasks that achieve [a goal upon completion] the processing of an insurance claim, allowing users to add new tasks [that achieve the goal upon completion], allowing the users to edit the tasks, and generating a historical record of the tasks that are completed.

8. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for creating a component based architecture capable of handling insurance claim processing tasks, comprising:

a user interface form code segment adapted for collecting data from a user input;

a business object code segment adapted for caching data;

an adapter code segment adapted for transmitting data to a server; and

a controller component code segment adapted for handling events generated by the user interacting with the user interface code segment, providing validation within a logic unit of work, containing logic to interact with the business component, creating one or more business objects, interacting with the adapter component to add, retrieve, modify, or delete business objects, and providing dirty flag processing to notify a user of change processing;

wherein the computer program is adapted for receiving a plurality of tasks that achieve [a goal upon completion] the processing of an insurance claim, allowing users to add new tasks [that achieve the goal upon completion], allowing the users to edit the tasks, and generating a historical record of the tasks that are completed.

15. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for creating a component based architecture for allowing communication between a plurality of clients and a server in order to handle insurance claim processing tasks, comprising:

one or more client components included with each client, each client component of each client adapted for communicating and manipulating data with a first data type, wherein the client component is adapted for receiving a plurality of tasks that achieve [a goal upon completion] the processing of an insurance claim, allowing users to add new tasks [that achieve the goal upon completion], allowing the users to edit the tasks, and generating a historical record of the tasks that are completed;

one or more server components adapted for communicating and manipulating data with a second data type; and

one or more adapter components included with each client for translating data from the one or more client components to the second data type when communicating data from the client to the server and further translating data from the one or more server components to the first data type when communicating data from the server to the client.